from America with a large quantity of Grouse—viz., a hybrid between the Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pediœcetes phasianellus*) and the Pinnated Grouse (*Cupidonia cupido*). The neck ruff is present, but only a quarter of an inch long; the tail, which is brown in the former species and white in the latter, is in the hybrid gray; the sides of the toes are only slightly feathered, and the general color of the plumage is intermediate between the two species. This bird, which through the kindness of Mr. Langton is now in my collection, was a male. Almost all wild hybrids are males, which doubtless arises from the more obscure plumage of the females causing them to be passed over, and this applies as much to Ducks and Finches as to Game-birds. As examples may be cited the cross between a Pochard (*Fuligula ferina*) and a Nyroca (*F. nyroca*), the Linnet (*Linnota cannabina*) cum Greenfinch (*L. chloris*) cross, and the Blackcock (*Tetrao tetrix*) cum Capercaillie (*T. urogallus*), which are almost always all males, though females are picked up now and then. Of the Linnet cum Greenfinch cross, although I have examined many males, I have only seen two females, and I imagine that the experience of other observers in England would be the same.

That no doubt should exist about the hybrid Grouse, it was submitted to Dr. Elliott Coues, who confirmed its origin, adding that he had never seen a specimen before, though he knew of the existence of one, recorded in the 'Nuttall Bulletin' a few years ago.*—J. H. Gurney, Jun., *Northrepps, Norwich, England.*

Notes on Lagopus leucurus.—As Dr. Stejneger, in an article in a recent number of the 'American Naturalist,' on the moulting of toe nails in the genus *Lagopus*, makes no mention of *L. leucurus*, the following may be of interest.

An average of the nails of 22 winter (November to March) specimens gives 7-10-12-10 mm. for the 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th toes respectively, and of 6 summer specimens (June and August) gives 6-8-9-8 mm. The extremes are an August bird, measuring 5-7-8-8 mm. and a February bird, showing 8-12-13-11 mm. with claws excessively curved. At first it seemed reasonable to suppose the shorter summer nails were due to wear on rocks, but one August bird showed the moult to be but partially completed, some of the nails falling off in my hands, and others clinging with but a slight hold. One bird showed a formula as follows: 9-12-11-11 mm., the middle claw being perfect and shorter than the 2d or 4th.

I failed to detect any positive difference between the summer plumages of male and female, unless it is in the female being more ochraceous. The fineness of the waving and mottling is variable in both sexes.

The shafts of the primaries are pure white, or white below and either black or dark colored above. The last form is only found in winter birds, and in every case of dark—not black—primary shafts, the webs were spotted with dusky.

* [By Mr. Brewster, in Vol. II, 1877, pp. 66-68.]

Seven young birds in August had the 1st and 2d primaries more or less white, and the last four pure white. The other primaries were plumbeous, mottled on web-margins with ochraceous.

The tails of the half-grown birds were banded and mottled with brown like the back; showing a bleaching to white along the centres of the outer feathers. One bird—an adult male, taken the last of June—has a black centre spot at the end of an outer tail feather.

During winter the sexes keep in separate flocks. At least so I judge from noting that where two or more birds were taken from a flock, all were of the same sex.—FRANK M. DREW, *Bunker Hill, Ill.*

Eskimo Curlew at San Diego, Cal.—One individual of this species (*Numenius borealis*) was attracted by my decoys and shot, September, 1883. The same day I shot a Hudsonian Curlew from out of a mixed flock of shore birds. Both were new to me at the time, although since the Hudsonian has been seen quite frequently, and was in April, this year, abundant in good-sized flocks, feeding on a grub-pest that pervaded the mesa slopes adjoining the Bay. But this single record of the Eskimo Curlew is, as far as I can learn, the first for this southern coast. The bird was in good plumage, but apparently ill at ease and flying alone — perhaps a straggler which came with the early flocks of the Long-billed Curlew and Willet.—GODFREY HOLTERHOFF, *National City, Cal.*

Nesting of the Little Black Rail in Connecticut.—On the evening of the 13th of July, 1876, one of my neighbors called in to ask me if I cared for a set of Rail's eggs. I did not care very much, as Virginia Rails are very common here, but on inquiry as to what variety he had found, he replied that he could not tell. He had been mowing at the Cove meadows and his scythe had decapitated a Rail sitting on her nest of nine eggs, and he had placed the remains of the bird and eggs—some of them broken—aside for me. I was greatly surprised when I beheld what he had brought me, so totally unlike were they to anything I had ever seen, and it was only after considerable research that I discovered that I possessed something very rare—eggs of the Little Black Rail (*Porzana jamaicensis*). Some of these specimens I sent to my friend, Mr. H. A. Purdie of Boston, for confirmation of their identity, and an account of the find was inserted in the 'Bulletin' of January, 1877. The other specimens I retained in my collection, with no anticipation that opportunity would ever recur for duplicating them. But on the 6th of June, 1884, I made a trip to 'Great Island'—a tract of salt meadow near the mouth of the Connecticut River, on its eastern shore—in search of nests of *Ammodromi* which abound in that locality. During a very successful hunt for them I observed a tuft of green grass carefully woven and interlaced together, too artificially to be the work of nature. 'Merely another Finch's nest,' I mused, as I carefully parted the green bower overhanging it. But wasn't there an extra and audible beat to my pulse when before my astonished gaze lay three beautiful Little Black Rail's eggs? Recovering from my surprise I carefully replaced the